Professor Dr Katja Matthes, Director of GEOMAR: "The international availability of collected data is the basis for successful cooperation and a decisive step towards a global map of the seafloor. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding with Seabed 2030 shows the enormous potential to jointly pursue the goal of the UN Decade of the Oceans 'to protect and sustainably use the oceans and marine resources for sustainable development'. The international networking of GEOMAR's expertise with the global Seabed 2030 initiative is a further milestone in international marine research."

Jamie McMichael-Phillips, Director of Seabed 2030 stated: "I am absolutely delighted that we have partnered with GEOMAR, a world leading institution in marine research. Our MoU reinforces the strong links with their extensive science team and the combined GEOMAR/German research fleet which has global reach. This will undoubtedly strengthen the SB2030 global ocean mapping community, driving us forward in supporting the GEBCO mission."

About Seabed 2030:

Seabed 2030 is a joint project of GEBCO and the Nippon Foundation, launched at the 2017 UN Ocean Conference in support of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, which aims to conserve the oceans and marine resources for sustainable use. At that time, only about six per cent of the seabed had been mapped with sufficient accuracy. By 2030, all available information on the seabed is to be collected and integrated into a seamless digital map of the world's oceans. To do this, Seabed 2030 brings together a global community of marine cartographers, hydrographers and other researchers, as well as industry and the public. Governments, organisations and individuals around the world are invited to join this common mission for the global seabed by the end of the decade.

About GEOMAR:

GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel is one of the world's leading marine research institutions. GEOMAR investigates the global ocean from the seafloor to the atmosphere, covering a unique spectrum of physical, chemical, biological and geological processes in the ocean. Since last year, the new Seafloor Morphology working group at GEOMAR combines expertise in seafloor mapping and geological research based on bathymetric observations. The group investigates the processes that shape the seafloor and the role its morphology plays in the ocean system. It uses data from expeditions as well as ocean observations, rock analysis, modelling and data science.

About "Underway" Research Data

As part of the EU AtlantOS project, GEOMAR started systematically mapping the seafloor along the transit routes of large German research vessels in international waters in 2015. Since 2019, this new approach has been continued in Germany as part of the research data project "Underway" of the German Marine Research Alliance (DAM). GEOMAR has a coordinating role in this project. The data will be made available internationally according to the FAIR principles.

Links:

https://www.geomar.de/en/research/fb4/fb4-muhs/research-topics/modelings Working Group 'Seafloor Modeling' at GEOMAR

https://seabed2030.org/ Seabed 2030

https://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en Nippon Foundation for Social Innovation

https://www.gebco.net/ General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)

https://www.allianz-meeresforschung.de/en/activities/data-management-and-digitalisation   Data management and digitisation activities of the German Marine Research Alliance (DAM)

https://atlantos-